Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 11-19, as specified in the following listing of claims.

The listing of claims given below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A device for operating a first discharge lamp (71) and a second discharge lamp (72), the device comprising:

first and second terminals (20,21) for coupling to a first filament (711) of the first lamp (71);

third and fourth terminals (22,23) for coupling to a second filament (712) of the first lamp (71);

fifth and sixth terminals (24,25) for coupling to a first filament (721) of the second lamp (72);

seventh and eighth terminals (26,27) for coupling to a second filament (722) of the second lamp (72);

a resonance inductor (LRes) coupled to the seventh terminal (26);

a resonance capacitor (CRes) coupled between the first terminal (20) and the seventh terminal (26);

a current control device (PTC);

a secondary coil (La) magnetically coupled to the resonance inductor (LRes) and electrically coupled to the current control device (PTC); and

a heating transformer comprising a primary coil (L_{hp}), a first secondary coil (L_{hs1}), a second secondary coil (L_{hs2}), and a third secondary coil (L_{hs3}), wherein:

the primary coil (L_{hp}) is coupled in series with the current control device (PTC) and the secondary coil (La);

the first secondary coil (L_{hs1}) is coupled between the first and second terminals (20,21);

the second secondary coil (L_{hs2}) is coupled between the fourth and sixth terminals (23,25); and

the third secondary coil (L_{hs3}) is coupled between the seventh and eighth terminals (26,27).

12. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the current control device (PTC) is a PTC thermistor.

13. (New) The device of claim 11, further comprising a sequential starting capacitor (C_{seq}) coupled between the fifth and seventh terminals (24,26).

14. (New) A device for operating a first discharge lamp (71) and a second discharge lamp (72), the device comprising:

first and second terminals (20,21) for coupling to a first filament (711) of the first lamp (71);

third and fourth terminals (22,23) for coupling to a second filament (712) of the first lamp (71);

fifth and sixth terminals (24,25) for coupling to a first filament (721) of the second lamp (72);

seventh and eighth terminals (26,27) for coupling to a second filament (722) of the second lamp (72);

a first resonance inductor (LRes1);

a second resonance inductor (LRes2) coupled between the first resonance inductor (LRes1) the seventh terminal (26);

a resonance capacitor (CRes) coupled between the first and seventh terminals (20,26);

a current control device (PTC);

a secondary coil (La) magnetically coupled to the second resonance inductor (LRes2) and electrically coupled to the current control device (PTC); and

a heating transformer comprising a primary coil (L_{hp}), a first secondary coil (L_{hs1}), a second secondary coil (L_{hs2}), and a third secondary coil (L_{hs3}), wherein:

the primary coil (L_{hp}) is coupled in series with the current control device (PTC) and the secondary coil (La);

the first secondary coil (L_{hs1}) is coupled between the first and second terminals (20,21);

the second secondary coil (L_{hs2}) is coupled between the fourth and sixth terminals (23,25); and

the third secondary coil (L_{hs3}) is coupled between the seventh and eighth terminals (26,27).

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the current control device (PTC) is a PTC thermistor.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, further comprising a sequential starting capacitor (C_{seq}) coupled between the fifth and seventh terminals (24,26).

17. (New) A device for operating a first discharge lamp (71) and a second discharge lamp (72), the device comprising:

first and second terminals (20,21) for coupling to a first filament (711) of the first lamp (71);

third and fourth terminals (22,23) for coupling to a second filament (712) of the first lamp (71);

fifth and sixth terminals (24,25) for coupling to a first filament (721) of the second lamp (72);

seventh and eighth terminals (26,27) for coupling to a second filament (722) of the second lamp (72);

a resonance inductor (LRes) coupled to the seventh terminal (26);

a resonance capacitor (CRes) coupled between the first terminal (20) and the seventh terminal (26);

a current control device (PTC) coupled to a tap on the resonance inductor (LRes); and

a heating transformer comprising a primary coil (L_{hp}), a first secondary coil (L_{hs1}), a second secondary coil (L_{hs2}), and a third secondary coil (L_{hs3}), wherein:

the primary coil (L_{hp}) is coupled between the current control device (PTC) and the seventh terminal (26);

the first secondary coil (L_{hs1}) is coupled between the first and second terminals (20,21);

the second secondary coil (L_{hs2}) is coupled between the fourth and sixth terminals (23,25); and

the third secondary coil (L_{hs3}) is coupled between the seventh and eighth terminals (26,27).

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the current control device (PTC) is a PTC thermistor.

19. (New) The device of claim 17, further comprising a sequential starting capacitor (C_{seq}) coupled between the fifth and seventh terminals (24,26).